

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 7, 12 and 19, as follows:

1 1. (Thrice Amended) An input/output platform (IOP) access module installed in a host system

2 for providing input/output device access between the host system and another system, via a data network,

3 said IOP access module comprising:

4 a Local Transport arranged to provide an interface to an input/output platform (IOP) supporting

5 an array of input/output devices;

6 a Remote Transport arranged to provide an interface to said another system, via said data network;

7 and

8 a Connection Manager arranged to establish connection services and to create a direct call path

9 between the Local Transport and the Remote Transport so as to provide access to input/output devices,

10 wherein the Connection Manager inquires the Local Transport to determine the number of input/output

11 platforms (IOPs), builds an IOP descriptor structure for each input/output platform (IOP) which includes

12 an exported table of function call pointers and the context required by the Local Transport to communicate

13 with the input/output platform (IOP).

1 7. (Thrice Amended) A host system, comprising:

2 a processor including an operating system (OS);

3 an array of storage devices;

4 a driver module for exporting local storage device access onto a computer network, said driver
5 module comprising:

6 a device driver module arranged to provide an interface to said array of local storage
7 devices;

8 a host driver module arranged to provide an interface to the operating system (OS), said
9 host driver module comprising a Local Transport which communicates with the device driver
10 module, a Remote Transport which provides an interface to said computer network, and a
11 Connection Manager which establishes connection services with remote systems on said computer
12 network and coordinates functions responsible for creating a direct call path between the Local
13 Transport and the Remote Transport to provide access to said storage devices, including to
14 determine, via the Local Transport, the number of input/output platforms (IOPs), build an IOP
15 descriptor structure for each input/output platform (IOP) including an exported table of function
16 call pointers and the context required by the Local Transport to communicate with the input/output
17 platform (IOP); and

18 a communication layer which supports communications between the host driver module and
19 the device driver module.

1 14. (Amended) A driver configuration of a host server for exporting local storage device
2 access onto a computer network, comprising:
3 an input/output platform (IOP) arranged to control an array of local storage devices; and
4 a system driver module comprising:
5 a Local Transport arranged to provide an interface to said input/output platform
6 (IOP);
7 a Remote Transport arranged to provide an interface to said computer network;
8 and
9 a Connection Manager arranged to establish connection services with remote
10 servers on said computer network and coordinate functions responsible for creating a
11 direct call path between the Local Transport and the Remote Transport to provide access
12 to the local storage devices, including to determine, via the Local Transport, the number
13 of input/output platforms (IOPs), build an IOP descriptor structure for each input/output
14 platform (IOP) including an exported table of function call pointers and the context
15 required by the Local Transport to communicate with the input/output platform (IOP).

1 19. (Amended) The driver configuration of claim 15, wherein, upon initialization, said Local
2 Transport scans the local bus so as to locate and initialize all local input/output platforms (IOPs) and builds
3 an opaque "context" structure for each input/output platform (IOP), wherein said Remote Transport

4 prepares to accept requests from a remote server through said computer network, and wherein said
5 Connection Manager further establishes a network management communication channel through the
6 Remote Transport after building the IOP descriptor structure, which waits for an external connection from
7 said remote server on said computer network for exporting local device access onto said computer
8 network using said direct call path between the Local Transport and the Remote Transport.